Large scale smuggling of India's genetic resources

2140. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States was indulging in large scale smuggling of India's genetic resources and then patenting them to the detriment of our economy; and

(b) the measures taken to check such activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No complaint has been received; genetic resources in the public domain are not patentable.

(b) A national legislation to regulate access to genetic materials is under formulation.

Technology Development Mission on oil seeds

2141. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Development Mission on oil seeds propose to encourage palm oil plantation to encourage palm oil porduction;

(b) if so, the action taken on a request of the Andhra Pradesh Government for financial help to set up a palm oil mill in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) when the sanction is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to encourage cultivation of Oil Palm, Government is providing assistance to selected States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) for planting material, cultivation during gestation period, drip irrigation installation, training of extension staff and farmers, publicity & extension and establishment including staff. Besides, Govt. is also providing financial assistance for Research and Development Programmes on Oil Palm as well as for setting up demonstration processing units of Oil Palm for the transfer of technology under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Research and Development in Post Harvest Technology in Oilseeds and Pulses.

(b) Govt. has not received any request from Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for financial help to set up a palm oil mill in Andhra Pradesh under the Mission Programme, referred to above.

(c) Does not arise.

Technological self reliance by CSIR Laboratories

2142. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes of CSIR laboratories aiming at technological self reliance;

(b) technical consultancy capabilities in the State of Andhra Pradesh and manpower engaged for the purpose;

(c) whether the consultancy services remain underutilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) In its 'vision & strategy CSIR 2001' document CSIR has enunciated its strategy for technological self reliance inter alia focussing on;

(i) Technology for Economic growth by partnering Indian industry enabling it to emerge as a significant global player and assisting the nation in deriving enhanced and sustainable value from endogenous services.

(ii) Technology for human welfare by providing S&T based solutions to mitigate the vulnerability and improve the quality of life, especially, for the weaker and disadvantaged sections of the society.

(b) As per study on consultancy capabilities in the state of Andhra Pradesh, there were around 275 consultants/ consultancy organisation, institutions, in-house consultancy cells/divisions of the large and medium industry and machinery manufacturers providing consultancy services. The capabilities include preparation of feasibility and project reports, detailed project consultancy, design & development of plant and machinery, technology upgradation and modernisation, pollution control and productivity enhancement. The area of services include civil engineering, computer software, geology and mining, food industry, paper industry, drugs & pharmaceuticals and chemicals. Total manpower engaged in consultancy services is about 2400.

(c) and (d) Awareness about such consultancy services and the areas of their specialisation is gradually increasing amongst the user groups which will ensure optimal levels of utilisation of these services in course of time.

गुजरात में इस्पात का उत्पादन

2143. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे : क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान गुजरात के इस्पात उत्पादक संयंत्रों द्वारा उत्पादित इस्पात की मात्रा कितनी है ;

(ख) क्या इस्पात का उत्पादन लक्ष्य से कम है ;

(ग) राष्ट्रीय इस्पात उत्पादन में गुजरात का योगदान कितना है ;

(घ) इस वर्ष इस्पात की कितनी मात्रा का निर्यात किया जायेगा ; और

(ङ) सरकार द्वारा इस्पात के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए क्या-क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद वैश्य) : (क) और (ख) सरकार निजी क्षेत्र द्वारा इस्पात के उत्पादन संबंधी लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं करती है । उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार गुजरात राज्य में विद्युत तप भट्टी इकाइयों द्वारा इस्पात का उत्पादन वर्ष 1994–95, 1995–96 और 1996–97 के दौरान क्रमश: 51,000 टन, 51,732 टन तथा 11,70,929 टन बताया गया है ।

(ग) इस्पात का उत्पादन करने वाली इकाइयों को किसी उत्पादन सिद्धि में योगदान देना अपेक्षित नहीं है ।

(घ) मौजूदा औद्योगिक नीति के अनुसार लोहे और इस्पात का निर्यात निर्बाध रूप से करने की अनुमति है । निर्यात की मात्रा का निर्धारण इस्पात उत्पादकों द्वारा बाजार की अवधारणाओं के आधार पर किया जाएगा ।

(ङ) सरकार ने देश में इस्पात के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए द्विपक्षीय नीति अपनाई है :

(i) सरकारी क्षेत्र के इस्पात संयंत्रों का आधुनिकीकरण और विस्तार करके; और

(ii) निजी क्षेत्र में अतिरिक्त क्षमता का सृजन करके ।

निजी क्षेत्र में इस्पात के उत्पादन की अतिरिक्त क्षमता का सृजन करने